

**SITUATION REPORT NO. 12**  
**INCIDENT NO. 97-015**  
**DATE: APRIL 4, 1997      TIME: 12:00 P.M.**

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer  
State Capitol  
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring flood statewide.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: A Barnes County motorist received minor injuries when he drove his vehicle into an unmarked road washout near Tower City.
3. DAMAGES: The Red River of the North continues to rise at Fargo and Wahpeton, where the river has been above flood stage for two days. Of the five Red River tributaries presently above flood stage, three showed gains of up to 7.02 feet during the past 24 hours, while the other two rivers dropped slightly. Of those rivers on the rise, the Sheyenne River has now exceeded flood stage at a third location, Kindred. In the west, Souris River remains above flood stage at two locations. The status of rivers and tributaries above flood stage are as follows:

Station	Flood 4/4/97 24-hr Stage Stage Difference			Flood of Record
<u>Red River</u>				
Wahpeton	10 ft.	12.96 ft.	+3.00 ft.	18.5 ft.
Fargo	17 ft.	21.6 ft.	+5.8 ft.	37.5 ft.
<u>Wild Rice</u>				
Abercrombie	10 ft.	19.10 ft.	+7.02 ft.	24.6 ft.
<u>Maple River</u>				
Enderlin	6 ft.	12.79 ft.	-.10 ft.	15.4 ft.
<u>Goose River</u>				
Hillsboro	7 ft.	14.32 ft.	-.81 ft.	16.8 ft.
<u>Sheyenne River</u>				
Coopers town	12 ft.	15.2 ft.	+1.07 ft.	18.69 ft.
Lisbon	11 ft.	15.73 ft.	+.69 ft.	19 ft.
Kindred	16 ft.	17.3 ft.	+2.12 ft.	21.7 ft.
<u>Baldhill Creek</u>				
Dazey	10 ft.	10.67 ft.	-.56 ft.	17.78 ft.
<u>Souris River</u>				
Sherwood	18 ft.	18.31 ft.	-.90 ft.	25.15 ft.
Foxholm	10 ft.	12.98 ft.	+.71 ft.	17.71 ft.

A combination of overland and Forest River flooding is threatening the city of Minto. The Weather Service expects the river to reach its 6-flood stage at Minto by April 4 and to continue rising to 11 feet. The emergency manager reported that N.D. Highway 81 is closed; water was two-feet deep over the highway's bridge at Forest River.

Also in Walsh County, water traveling overland backed up at a small drain and flooded basements of two Veseleyville homes.

An initial damage assessment by Sargent County officials indicates that flood waters have damaged nearly 40 homes in the city of Milnor. Damage reports include problems with water on the first floor and heaving basement floors.

Travel is becoming increasingly difficult on water-logged county and township roads in eastern North Dakota, causing concern that delays could occur or access could be blocked for emergency vehicles. Road conditions have delayed response time to emergencies in LaMoure County and have made it impossible for Wahpeton County road crews to deliver sand to rural residents for their sandbagging efforts.

Flood waters appear to be washing surface gravel and base materials around culverts in Eddy County.

In Ransom County, three Enderlin homes have been flooded by Maple River waters, and overland flooding inundated three other homes. Officials have closed 10 sites on county roads because of flood waters. Township roads have approximately 100 sites where water is washing over them.

In Barnes County, overland flooding filled basements of five Litchville homes.

Rapidly rising waters in the Wild Rice and Sheyenne Rivers have city of Great Bend residents and officials concerned that water will soon flow over streets. The Wahpeton County emergency manager reported that an elderly couple's farmstead near Great Bend has been isolated by flood waters that are within six feet of the home. In the city of Dwight, high waters are endangering a lift station. Near Walcott, waters have flooded a basement of a home.

Apple Creek remains above flood stage in Burleigh County, the result of water flowing into the creek from the McKenzie Slough. Weather Service hydrologists expect a very slow fall for next few days. The creek's level was 15.41 feet on April 5; flood stage is 15 feet.

In Nelson County, rising Sheyenne River waters forced the evacuation of a Neisheim Township elderly man and his niece. A home health service transported them to a hotel, where volunteers will provide meals and medical treatments.

Although roads were generally in good condition in Benson County because of a slow

snowmelt, one road washout has left a 90-year-old woman stranded in her home. The N.D. Division of Emergency Management has received reports of additional flood damages in Mercer County, where basement walls are crumbling in two homes because of extended exposure to flood waters.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from the first report.

STATE: No change from the first report.

FEDERAL: No change from the first and second reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: In Walsh County, local cellular phone companies have donated cellular phones for use during flood response efforts. Local businesses are providing food to the American Red Cross, and a car dealership in Grafton has provided a van for transportation. A Park River communications company has donated the use of a phone system for the county's Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

In Ransom County, volunteers in Enderlin have filled and placed more than 10,000 sandbags. In Dickey County, 60 Oakes High School students have joined sandbagging efforts.

In Barnes County, the Senior Citizen Center in Valley City and the Red Cross are providing meals to sandbaggers.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Efforts to sand ice along the Red River were discontinued April 4 because of forecasts calling for a winter storm for North Dakota. During April 3 operations, N.D. National Guard helicopter crews assigned to ice dusting efforts dumped more than 12,000 50-pound bags of sand onto the river. Operations were staffed by 28 National Guard members who served as aviation support crews and 30 who were assigned to ground support.

Seven N.D. National Guard members and a newly-constructed sandbag machine were assigned to sandbagging operations in Valley City. Volunteers filled up to 13,800 sandbags in two days. National Guard members constructed the sandbagging machine at the Combined Support Maintenance Shop (CSMS) at Camp Gilbert C. Grafton in Devils Lake. The machine's design includes four spouts capable of filling up to 4,800 bags per hour. In Argusville in Cass County, two National Guard members operated a 2-½ yard front end loader with an auger while volunteers filled up to 3,000 sandbags. Requests for sandbagging equipment are coordinated through the N.D. Division of Emergency Management.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineer plans to increase releases from the Jamestown and Pipestem Dams. Last year, the maximum combined release was 1,300 cfs. Work to clear the James River channel and the installation of channel blocks are allowing the USACE to increase releases.

The North Dakota Civil Air Patrol conducted a surveillance flight on April 3 for USACE staff, who viewed flooding conditions in the Gwinner and Milnor areas.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: None at this time.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: Blizzard-like conditions are expected to return to North Dakota during the April 4-6 weekend as a winter storm moves into the state, possibly bringing six to 10 inches of snow. The National Weather Service has issued a winter storm watch for west, central and northeast Dakota for late April 4 and April 5 and for southeast North Dakota for late afternoon on April 5. Strong northerly winds of 20 to 35 miles per hour (mph) may accompany the storm. Blizzard conditions may develop, and roads could become blocked.

The Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports for the spring flood, Devils Lake flood and winter storm are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is: "<http://www.state.nd.us/dem>".

The N.D. State Water Commission posts flood-related information on its Internet home page. The address is "<http://water.swc.state.nd.us>". The U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's has a "Water Control Home Page" at "<http://www.ncs-wc.usace.army.mil>". The U.S. Geological Survey's Internet home page address is: "<http://srv1dndbmk.cr.usgs.gov/public/>".

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Raymond J. Staiger, Acting State Director